

September 2010

My Favorite Tree – My Maple

By Nicole Ciha

In the summer her leaves are green
Just like the grass on the ground
She is shade for birds and me
And the flowers which abound

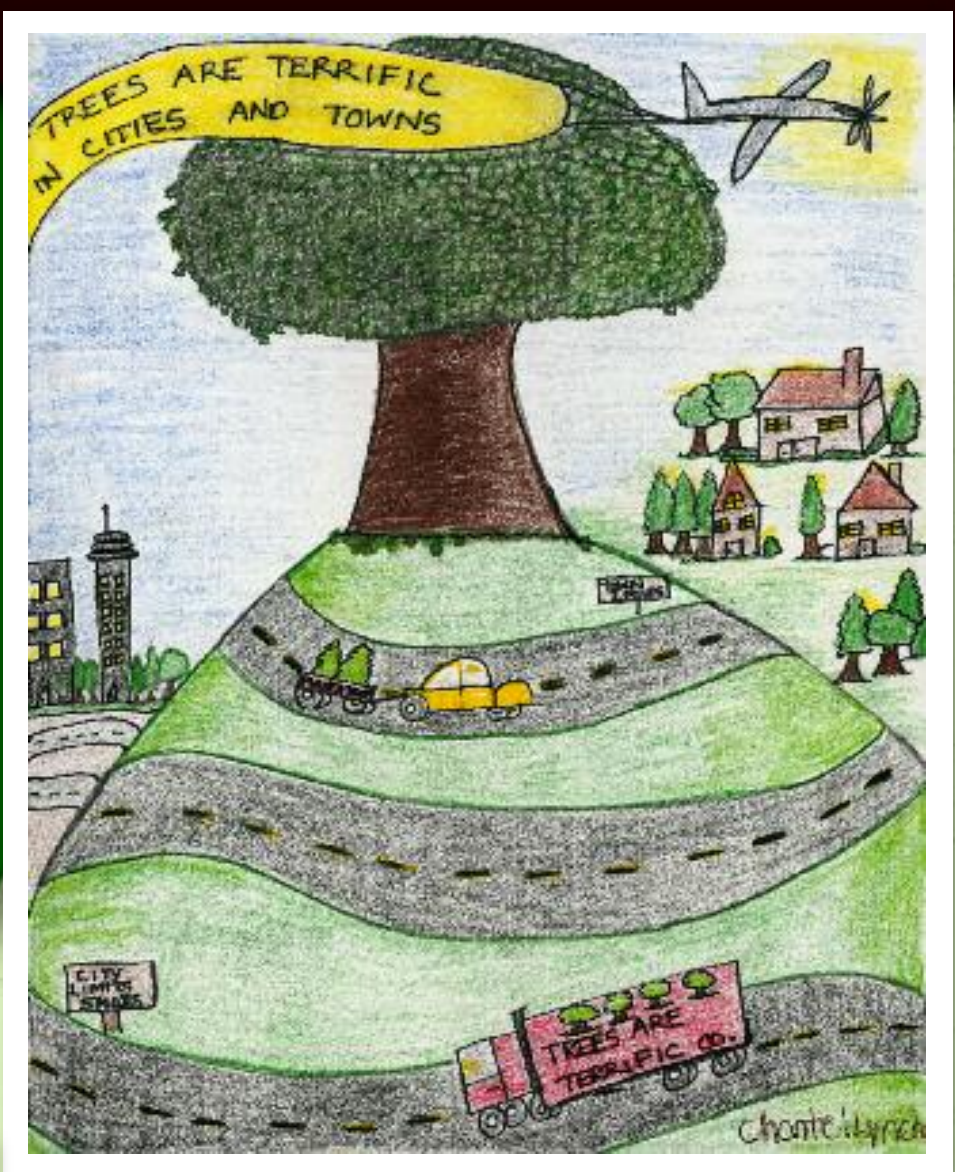
My Maple’s leaves look so pretty in the fall
With the colors of red, yellow, gold and brown
What a background

My Maple is so nice as it is home to many forest friends
Birds sit on branches and make their homes with twigs and leaves
The squirrels scurry around looking for lots and lots of nuts
To store in her big round trunk

In the Spring when the sun is bright and the nights are cold,
My Maple makes a sugary delight
The sweet maple syrup makes my pancakes nice and sweet
Yum! Yum!

In My State of many trees
The Sugar Maple is Wisconsin’s State tree
With leaves of green, my maple stands strong and tall,
She is honored by all.

St. Mary’s School, Luxemburg
Honorable Mention
Teacher: Marlene Ropson



Calendar Art by Chantel Lynch • School: New Glarus Elementary, New Glarus • Honorable Mention
Teacher: Amy Burdette

SundayMondayTuesdayWednesdayThursdayFridaySaturday						
AUGUST 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		OCTOBER 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1	2	3 Deer fawns lose their spots.
5	6 Labor Day Read a Book Day – Each year, 30 million trees are turned into paper to make books.	7 Despite the ruby throated hummingbird’s tiny size, it migrates more than 1,850 miles to spend the winter in Central America.	8	9 Rosh Hashanah	10	11 Patriot Day
12 Grandparents Day	13 Have the acorns fallen yet?	14 Woodsy Owl is 39 years old. Woodsy reminds us to “Give a hoot – don’t pollute!”	15	16 International Day of Peace Why do leaves change color as summer moves to fall?	17 Time to visit a school forest!	18 Yom Kippur
19 Migrating Canada geese pass through Wisconsin. Look for their flying V-formation and listen for lots of honking.	20	21 Get set for hunting season. Take a hunter education course.	22	23 Full (Harvest) Moon Autumn begins. This is the first day of fall, and there will be equal amounts of day and night.	24 Whooping cranes begin migrating south. Why do some animals migrate each year?	25 National Public Lands Day
26 Johnny Appleseed is born (1774). He planted apple trees across much of the U.S. Did you know that fall is a great time to plant trees?	27 Fall season is ripe with opportunity for the best apples in Wisconsin! Find an orchard near your home and try some new homemade recipes.	28	29 Fun Forestry Fact: The tamarack is the only conifer in our state that changes color (to yellow) and sheds its leaves each fall.	30		

Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)

Form
Sugar maples grow to a height of 80 to 100 feet or more. The trees have symmetrical, heavy, round crowns.

Leaf
Sugar maple leaves are 3 to 5 inches long and have 5 lobes. The leaves are dark green on the upper surface and paler green below. In autumn, these leaves turn brilliant shades of yellow, orange and red.

Wood
Sugar maple wood is light brown, hard and close-grained. Its wood is used for flooring, furniture, musical instruments, bowling pins and fuel. Its sapwood is tapped and boiled or evaporated to make maple syrup.

Fruit
Sugar maple fruit is a pair of fused *samaras*, about 1 inch long, that mature in fall. These samaras are often referred to as “helicopters” by children, who enjoy tossing them into the air and watching them float down with a spinning motion.